

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1932

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

ALL NATO CAPITALS 5289

S E C R E T USNATO 2829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 115823

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MAY 20 LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR BRUCE TO
SYG LUNS ON SPAINS CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE.

BEGIN TEXT:

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER INTENDS TO SPEAK ABOUT
UNITED STATES-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION, AND SPAINS
IMPORTANCE TO THE WESTERN SECURITY POSTURE.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE ALLIES
SHOULD CONSIDER WAYSTO BRING SPAIN CLOSER TO NATO, WITH
A VIEW TO EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP. THE UNITED STATES BASES
THIS VIEW ON THE FACT THAT SPAIN IS IMPORTANT TO ALLIED
DEFENSE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, INCLUDING TO THE ABILITY OF
THE UNITED STATES TO REINFORCE ITS FORCES IN WESTERN
EUROPE IN CASE OF NEED. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE
NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE COULD PROVIDE A STRONG, PURPOSEFUL

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FRAMEWORK TO SPAIN OVER THE COMING YEARS, AIDING IT IN
FOLLOWING A STABLE, MODERATE COURSE.

THE UNITED STATES ALSO HAS POINTED OUT TO ITS ALLIES THAT SPAIN, IN THE CONTEXT OF BILATERAL UNITED STATES-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS, HAS INDICATED A STRONG INTEREST IN SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION BY NATO THAT IT IS MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A VALID SPANISH INTEREST AND WE SUPPORT IT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT SOME ALLIES BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO CONSIDER A ROLE IN NATO FOR SPAIN, AND WE HAVE NOTED IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES THAT EXIST ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT WE RESPECT.

ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, WITH ITS FOCUS ON DEFENSE POLICY AND READINESS, PROVIDES A SUITABLE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE ALLIES CAN EXPRESS AN APPRECIATION OF THE SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORT WITHOUT, IN THE PROCESS, IMPLYING A POLITICAL JUDGEMENT ON SPAIN.

I THEREFORE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION APPEAR IN THE DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE:

"THE MINISTERS REVIEWED WITH INTEREST THE STATUS OF UNITED STATES-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION, AND NOTED THAT SPAIN, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ITS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, CONTINUES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO DEFENSE EFFORT."

THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL INTRODUCE THE ABOVE LANGUAGE INTO THAT COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS ON THE DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO THE OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DPC AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.
END TEXT.

2. ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE THAT MISSION REVISED PHRASE, "INCLUDING THROUGH, ETC.", IN COMMUNIQUE FORMULATION SUGGESTED REFTEL, TO SUBSTITUTE "PARTICULARLY" FOR "INCLUDING" SINCE FORMER IS LESS

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AWKWARD AND SENSE IS PRESERVED.
BRUCE.

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